

the R.A.P. family

Relatives As Parents

DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

GLEND A WEAVER 208-769-7096



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The RAP/GAP Mascot is the turtle. The turtle, like us and our children, has a hard shell to protect it from getting hurt, but the inside is soft, vulnerable and lovable. We must learn to stick our heads out of our shell and take a chance.

✧ Toys For Tots ✧

Toys for Tots is for low income families in Kootenai County who are on public assistance and is open to children who are 12 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER.

To participate in Toys for Tots YOU MUST PROVIDE verification.

This verification can be provided by PROOF of participation in any (not all) of the following:

Medicaid

WIC

TAFI

Quest Card (food stamps) -- verification of active status must be provided

Social Security Disability

Supplemental Security Income

Military Active Duty

ONLY the CUSTODIAL PARENT/GUARDIAN may apply. PROOF OF CUSTODY FOR EACH CHILD such as: birth certificates, social security cards, guardianship papers, WIC, TAFI, Medicaid or an active Quest card.

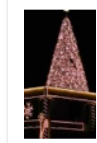
PROOF OF KOOTENAI COUNTY RESIDENCY must be verified by presenting a valid Idaho driver's license with current address, utility bill or rental agreement. The parent/guardian's name must be on the document.

You MUST bring PROOF of the above to the Request Center when you apply. Applications will be accepted Monday through Saturday beginning SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st and ending MONDAY, DECEMBER 17th.

Hours of operation are: 10:00AM to 4:00PM NO applications will be taken over the telephone and no online applications--you must apply in person!!

The request center is located at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds. 4056 N. Government Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Go through the main gate to the red building on the right.

FOR OTHER COUNTIES GO TO WWW.TOYSFORTOTS.ORG



The Annual Christmas R.A.P. Party

For All Relatives As Parents

Come party with us!
There will be finger foods, cookies, coffee and punch. The guardians will relax in a different area and be able to enjoy a couple of hours of visiting.

Come and enjoy the Christmas atmosphere. Child care will be provided at no cost.
Glenda 769-7096

When: December 13, 2012

**Where: Jewett House
1501 E Lakeshore Dr
Cd'A, Idaho**

Time: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

You do not have to be a member of R.A.P. to come to the Christmas Party. All members of other RAP groups are welcome; Kellogg, St. Maries, Post Falls, Rathdrum & Bonners Ferry. If you are raising a relative child, other than your own, grab the kids and come join the fun



Christmas Stockings

If you submitted your child's name for a filled Christmas stocking, pick them up at this meeting. If you can not attend this meeting, please call me to make pick up arrangements

Idaho Foster, Adoptive, and Relative Families Holiday Party

All licensed foster care, adoptive and relative families come enjoy an assortment of food, crafts, a special visit from Santa and the company of other families just like yours. Bring all of your kiddos for the fun! Please RSVP by December 3rd.

When: December 15, 2012

Where: Lake City Community Church

**6000 N. Ramsey Road (Across from Lake City High School)
Coeur d'Alene, ID.**

Time: Open House between 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

If you want to attend or get more information contact **Jessica Gross at 208-623-4174**

Christmas Tree Permit

Do you want to have an old fashion Christmas? You might like to make this a family event with starting it out by cutting down your own Christmas Tree. Christmas tree permits are available through the Forest Service & Bureau of Land Management. Get your permit, gather the kiddos and make sure everyone is dressed warmly. Carry extra food and hot drinks and always let someone know your travel plans including destination and expected time of arrival back home. Cell coverage is limited in many of these areas. The BLM has rules and map areas of where you can cut your tree. Let the kids help you pick the perfect tree. Happy Hunting!

For more information: **3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID. 83815**

Main Contact Number: 208-769-5000

Savings Incentive Program

By Catholic Charities of Idaho

Sounds too good to be true? - Well it is true and it is VERY GOOD!

Every dollar you save will be matched with \$2

ONLY FOR BUYING A HOME

or

PAYING FOR A EDUCATION OR COLLEGE

(trade or technical school, nursing, welding paralegal ...etc)

Every dollar you save will be matched with \$2.

Investor can save over the course of six months to 2 years.

You can save up to \$2,000 we match it with \$4,000.....you get.....\$6,000.00

To Qualify for – Savings Program you must be.....

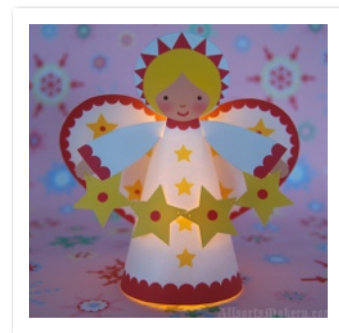
- 1. An adult or couple with at least one minor child you support**
(Don't have to have custody)
- 2. Resident of Idaho living within our 5 Northern Counties**
- 3. Have earned income from a job**
- 4. Annual gross income must be below:**
 - a. For family size of 2 - below \$29,000**
 - b. Fam of 3 below \$37,000**
 - c. Fam of 4 below \$44,000**
 - d. Fam of 5 below \$52,000**
 - e. Fam of 6 below \$60,000**
 - f. Fam of 7 below \$67,000**
- 5. Families' total net worth must be below \$10,000 (assets minus all debt and/or loans)**

CALL CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF IDAHO – 676-1974

Special Needs Recreation

What is Special Needs Recreation? It is a non-profit organization in Kootenai County providing recreational opportunities for people with physical and/or mental disabilities. They offer various recreation programs for youth and adults who have challenges participating in other programs because of a learning disability, sensory impairment, mental, emotional or physical handicap. They provide this recreational program to all people with any of these disabilities regardless of their ability to pay. Their youth program is for ages 4 to 21 years of age. They offer Camp All-Stars day camps throughout the year. One of the camps is called **School Days Off Camp**. They offer youth activities during school out days from 9 am to 3 pm. The next camp that is coming up this year is called **Winter Day Camp**. This is a day camp from 9am to 3 pm Monday through Friday during the winter break. Club SNR provides a club meeting once a month. Club members have meaningful discussions and they are encouraged to help plan monthly outings and events. In conjunction with Club SNR, they provide 5 to 10 monthly activities every month. Activities such as dances, talent shows, bingo, cooking classes, pizza night and trips to Spokane to include the Arena and many other fun community oriented activities. **For more information about SNR contact Angie at 755-6781**

Make a Starry Angel

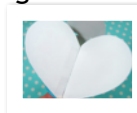


MATERIALS NEEDED -

- Color printer
- White cardstock or heavy white paper
- small sharp scissors
- clear tape
- straight-edge
- scoring tool
- adhesive applicator (not a glue stick or wet adhesive as it might buckle or slip)

Directions:

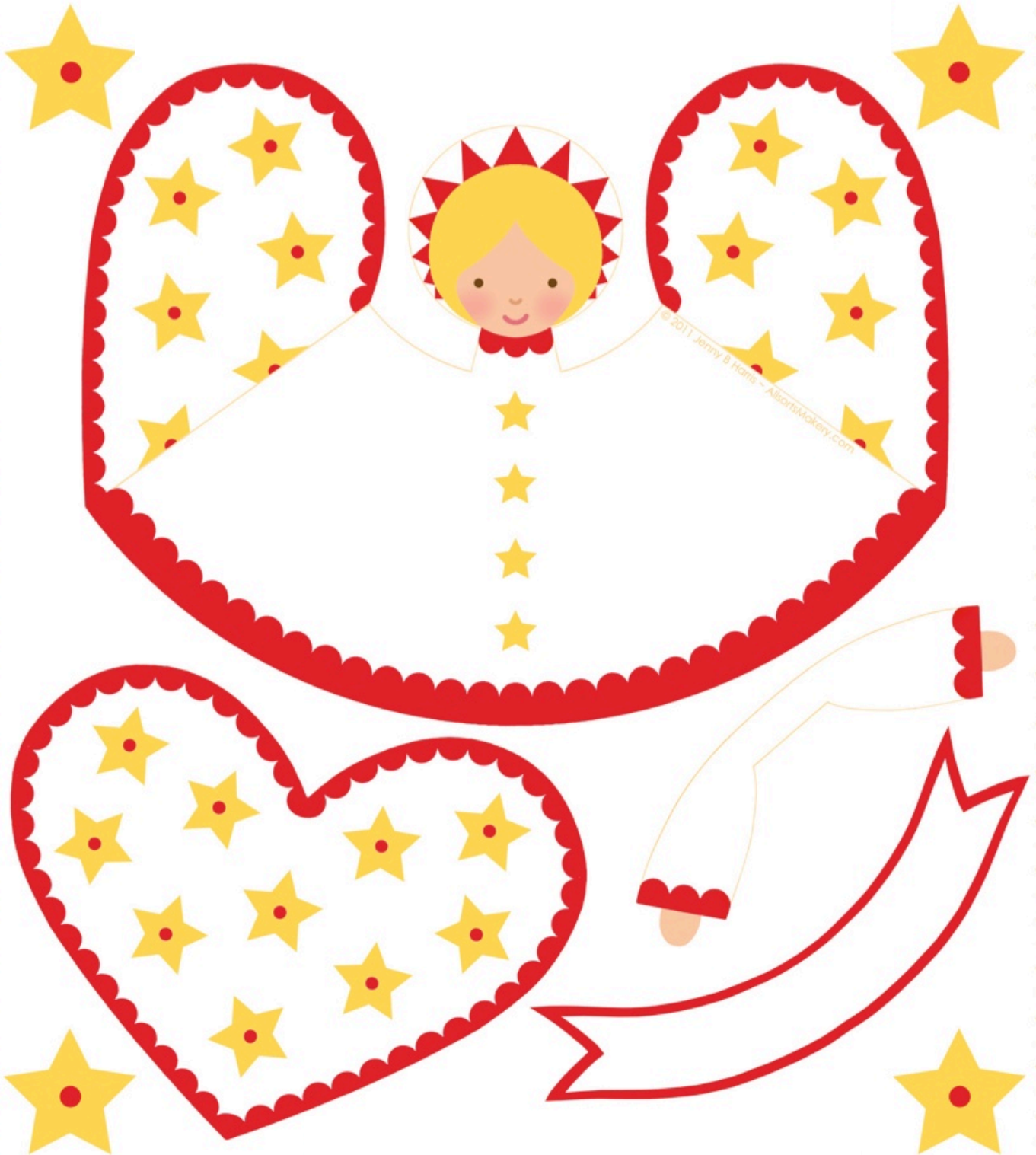
1. Using a pair of sharp scissors and carefully cut out the pieces:
2. Now let's add her arms. First, hook the arm piece around the head/neck: Use a bit of clear tape to attach .
3. Now we're going to score the wings, using a straight-edge(ruler). Score both wings from the front, being careful not to push so hard that you tear the paper:
4. Carefully curve the angel into a smooth rounded cone shape to where the folded wing edges meet in the back, forming a heart. Tape together as shown below. Try to get the edges to meet as snugly as possible and make sure they form a flat plane:
5. Apply adhesive evenly to the back of the heart, especially along the edges:
6. Carefully position the colored heart onto the back of the angel, matching the two heart shapes. Once in position, press pieces together to firmly adhere:
7. You can write or stamp a name or message on the banner and use her a placecard on your holiday table as shown above, or she also makes a sweet ornament on the tree with just her outstretched arms.
8. If you like, you could cut out the four decorative stars in the corners of the page and string them on a length of thread for her to hold! A *favorite* thing is to place each angel onto a battery operated tea light. This gives her an almost magical glow. A row of these flickering on a mantelpiece would be really special.



I hope you enjoy this Christmas craft, and that a little angel finds its way into your home this Christmas!

By Jenny B Harris... illustrator, designer, and generally an artsy craftsy person.

Starry Christmas Angel



Dancing With God

By Elaine K. Williams

My dear friends, Dee Dee Raap recently wrote an essay she called, *Dancing with God*. When she read it to me over the phone, I immediately thought of all the parenting grandparents and parenting relatives who dance with God on a daily basis. We all dance with God in our own unique ways, but grandparents & relatives who are raising their grandchildren and relative children are dancing the "quick step!" It doesn't slow down so you really have to be a good dancer!!

I asked Dee Dee if I could publish her essay in the newsletter for parenting grandparents and parenting relatives she joyously agreed. So here is:

Dancing With God by Dee Dee Raap

Life is a journey filled with dances with God.

Every morning I pray for knowledge of His will and ask for the confidence and ability to carry it out. Then I take a step. I am in God's arms, and it's a beautiful waltz.

As music flows and God's love surrounds me, I feel safe, joyful, trusting. When the music stops, I stumble, for I was leading, not following.

Aware of what I did, believing I would change, the music starts again, this time, a slow two-step. I am again dancing in the safe, joyful, trusting arms of God. But again, the music stops, and I bump right into God. He patiently smiles as I say, "I was leading again, wasn't I?" God smiles, nods His head and says, "Are you done yet?"

I sheepishly smile, knowing I will try my best. Then I realize that trying my best means letting go—being in God's arms, enjoying the music, moving my feet as I know how, and simply believing that when God introduces a new dance, I will learn a lesson that will allow me to dance—to follow—and to simply enjoy the music again.

A lot of what each of you do as parenting grandparents and parenting relatives involves a high degree of trust and faith. Trusting, that somehow you can and will provide your grandchildren and relative children with what they need despite many and different, daily challenges; and faith in God, that you will be blessed with the strength and resources you require.

Sometimes the challenges are so great, our first instinct is to "take control" believing we can *make* things happen. Control might work in the short run, but it won't in the long run! Dee Dee's words help us realize that faith in God, a willingness to let go and let God lead, will inspire our resolve and strengthen our ability and fortitude to carry out the responsibilities that come with being parenting grandparents and parenting relatives. Responsibilities so great, that they are indeed, sacred work!

As Christmas Day approaches, I want each and every parenting grandparent and parenting relative to know how blessed your grandchildren and relative children are that you are there for them daily; how blessed your adult child or adult relative is that you stepped in when, for whatever reason, they stepped out; and how grateful we are for, your sacrifices and deep commitment to your grandchildren and relative children to ensuring their well-being. We admire you as you inspire each of us to be better, more loving and compassionate human beings. You make the world a better world for not just your grandchildren and relative children, but for all of us.

So enjoy the music, enjoy the dance and may God bless you as you do your daily *quick step* gracing your grandchildren and relative children with a sense of safety, security and love.

Merry Christmas!

With Gratitude, Elaine K. Williams

Relatives As Parents Support Groups in North Idaho

The CdA RAP Support Group meets the second Thursday of the month at:
Jewett House **December 13, 2012 "Christmas Party"**

1501 E. Lakeshore Drive

Coeur d'Alene, ID

(A light lunch and child care is provided at no cost)

Noon - 2 o'clock

Glenda Weaver 208-769-7096 cell: 208-964-0667

Margo Peebles 208-667-0320

The Post Falls RAP Support Group meets the first and third Fridays of the month from 10 to 11:30 am at:

Head Start/Across from the library

106 West 9th Street

Post Falls, ID

The Bonnors Ferry

Contact Person:

Dena Riffle 208-267-8166

***Food Stamps, Iccp Child Care, and general questions call:
1-877-456-1233**

*** Medicaid Questions call: 1-866-326-2485**

*** Child Support Questions call: 1-800-356-9868**

Need help? Dial 2-1-1

Do you need help or want to volunteer, but don't know where to start?

Get Connected. Get Answers.

Dial 2-1-1 Or 1-800-926-2588

8:00 am - 6:00 pm MST Monday - Friday

www.idahocareline.org



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N O R T H I D A H O

R.A.P. *family*



RAP *family*

Glenda Weaver

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Coeur d'Alene, ID. 83815

Any Name

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